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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
(CREATED PURSUANT TO SEC. 1(a) OF PUBLIC LAW 94, 77TH CONGRESS)

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October 19, 1982

Mr. William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

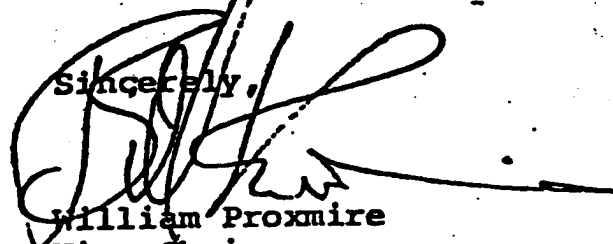
As you know, since 1974 either the Director of Central Intelligence or his spokesman has appeared before the Joint Economic Committee to present an assessment of the state of the Soviet economy and its prospects in our annual hearings.

I believe that there is an unusual amount of confusion in Congress and in the general public today as to where the Soviet economy stands, and that this confusion may have harmful effects on public opinion and legislative decision-making. It is, of course, vitally important that those outside the intelligence community correctly assess the economy of our principal potential adversary.

I would like you or your designate to provide to my Subcommittee a briefing in early December assessing the capabilities and vulnerabilities of the Soviet economy. This briefing would be presented in closed, executive session. The record, when sanitized and approved for publication, could go a long way toward correcting the misperceptions and clearing up the misinformation that now exists.

I understand that several major studies dealing with the future of the Soviet economy and the policy implications are now underway. I would like to schedule an additional appearance when the studies are completed next year.

Sincerely,



William Proxmire
Vice Chairman

Subcommittee on International Trade,
Finance, and Security Economics

